Steam Era Models
C/- P.O. Rhyll, Victoria, 3923.

VICTORIAN RAILWAYS 'U' VAN

Prototype Notes

The U van was designed for the carriage of perishable goods, although other classes of goods could be carried under certain conditions. The model is based on the 16 ton capacity steel van introduced in 1908. Originally built with 6 wheel underframes, these wagons were rebuilt in the 1930's with 4 wheels, or as UB bogie vans. These vehicles were numbered 561-991 and were built with 4'6" wide doorways, however during the 1950's many were rebuilt with the 7'0" wide doors which this kit features.

Model illustrated has been fitted with shunter's steps, handbrake and couplers (not included).

Wagons 992-1066 were built with corrugated iron roofs, 7'0" doorways and 6 wheel underframes in 1925. All were rebuilt in the 1930's onto 4 wheel underframes, or as UB bogie vans numbers 1-41. Wagons 1067-1466 were built new with auto' coupled 4 wheel underframes and corrugated iron roofs. All featured an 8" combination brake cylinder and auxiliary reservoir located between the centre sills. 1067-1216 had wheel type handbrakes while 1217-1466 were equipped with lever operated handbrakes.

Assembly

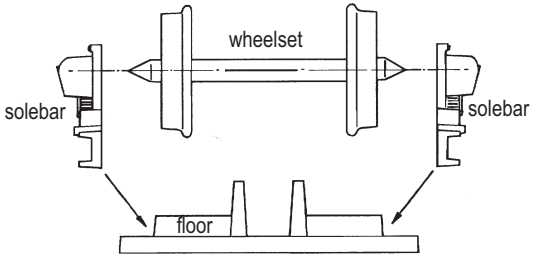
It is recommended that this kit be assembled with a liquid solvent such as MEK, Testors, Britfix etc.

Like all plastic kits the final result depends on the care taken in assembly. If all parts are dry fitted in position and filed or sanded as necessary to achieve a good fit before finally glueing in place, the final result will be a much better model.

The plastic used in this kit may be attacked by some oils, therefore axles should only be lubricated with powdered graphite or Teflon lubricant.

Read all instructions before commencing assembly. Remove all parts from sprues using a knife or razor saw. Clean up all parts with a flat file. Remove the molding pips from the back of the axleboxes but DO NOT remove locating lugs from back of wagon ends. Press a delrin bearing into the hole in the back of each axle box.

Remove the draft or slight taper from the top of each sole bar, so that they will stand up square off the floor. Press an acetal bearing into the hole in the back of each axlebox. Glue the solebars to the floor/underframe, sandwiching the wheelsets between, as shown in diagram. Make sure the ends of floor and solebar are flush and that the axles are free running and have a small amount of endplay.

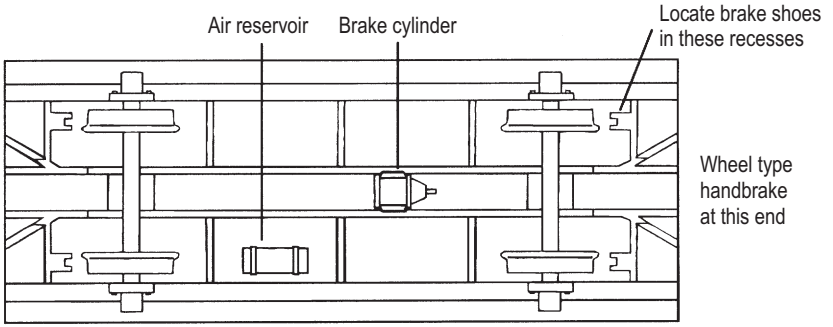


Carefully file the ends of the sides so that they are square and a good fit with the wagon end. Glue the sides to the ends to form an open box. Note that the sides fit between the ends. Ensure that the louvres on the sides and ends are flush and the corners are square before putting the assembly aside to dry.

Using a sanding block or flat file carefully file the bottom surface of the roof to achieve a good fit with the body of the wagon. If too much material was removed from the sides in part 3 the roof will be too long to fit properly and the top of the back surface of the end will need to be filed to allow the roof to seat properly. When the roof fits properly glue it in place.

Trim the floor to a good fit in the body and then glue in place.

Glue the brake cylinder to the centre sills and the air reservoir to the floor as shown in the diagram. Glue four brake shoes into the floor recesses as shown in the diagram, ensure that the brake shoes do not interfere with the free running of the wheels. This kit is designed to use Kadee No5 or No58 couplers which will need to have the ears removed from the sides of the draft box to fit.



If it is desired to super detail the wagon, etched brass shunters steps and brake wheels are available in Steam Era Models kit E5.

Painting and Decals

The wagon should be painted overall VR Wagon Red with white lettering. We recommend Steam Era Models V.R. Wagon Red spraying enamel. Decals are provided for both metric and imperial load/tare and codes. Refer to the diagrams for placement of lettering.

To Apply Decals

1. Trim decals close to lettering to remove excess film.
2. Immerse in water for ten to fifteen seconds, then set aside on a tissue until decal straightens out.
3. Slide decal into position. If it is necessary to adjust the final position, use a small brush that has been dipped in water.
4. Use a tissue to soak up excess water.
5. The use of a decal setting agent such as Solvaset is recommended to assist decals in snuggling down over rivets etc.
6. A flat finish such as DDV or Estapol matt applied to the entire model will give a uniform dull finish.
   NOTE: DECALS ADHERE BEST TO A GLOSS SURFACE.